

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs commencing on page 1, line 10, and ending on page 1, line 20 with the following:

In the prior art, sickle sections have been advanced that have curved edges, such as that shown in U.S. Design Patent No. D912,164. However, the capacity of these sections is compromised by having edges that, while curved, do not continuously expand laterally outward from the tip or lead end to the base.

Another type of harvester cutter sickle section is shown in U.S. Design Patent No. D354,786 with a compound curvature, rather than a continuous single curved edge.

Please replace the paragraphs commencing on page 6, line 2, and ending on page 6, line 18 with the following:

In other words, there are no pockets or recesses in the edges 26 from the place where the material enters the space between adjacent sickle knife sections 15 to the point where the cutting edges 20 terminates along sides 30 of the sickle knife section base. There are cutters for brush, branches and the like where a single stalk is to be severed and "pockets" along the edges help to trap a branch.

If desired, a—weight reduction openings 38A, 38B, 38C and 38D of different configurations also can be provided in the body of the sickle sections of the present invention, as is conventionally done at the present time. Also, weight reduction openings of various designs as shown at 43A, 43B or 43C can be provided in the base 19 of the sickle knife sections.

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